

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 24, 2001 LB 295

a bill that was passed out of the committee unanimously last session but ran out of time before it could be passed onto the floor. Six years ago, a law was passed to create a fund for alcohol and drug abuse counseling within the horse racing industry. It was funded by money gotten from fines assessed for punishment. Unfortunately, this money has never been spent, because it was soon...as soon as it was passed it was declared unconstitutional. The Nebraska Constitution states, in Article VII, Section 5, that all fines and penalties are required to be used exclusively for the use and support of the common schools in the respective subdivision where they occur. In other words, if a horse racing fine is assessed in Grand Island, it has to go to the school fund for the Grand Island schools. The horse racing industry is aware of this problem and wants to give the money to the school fund, but they cannot until a bill is passed. As of the year 2000, the amount in the fund was \$52,196. It is expected to be at or near \$70,000 this year. When it comes to the money given to schools, it's not a lot of money, but every little bit helps, and it can't be spent any other way. This has also been a problem for the state Auditors Office because they have to have an account for this money every year, and they have to report every year that the money is not being properly allocated. This is a simple problem to fix, but it cannot be done until this amendment is passed. Thank you. And I would answer any questions you may have.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Debate on the committee amendments to LB 295? Senator Janssen, you're recognized to close. Senator Janssen waives closing. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 295. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The committee amendments are adopted. For debate on the advancement of LB 295, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, Senator Pedersen, if I may, I'd...I'd like to ask you a few questions about this particular